

# Highlights

## KINGS CANYON



Photo courtesy of R. Mazur

**BE CAREFUL:** Snow or ice may still make some trails slippery and difficult to follow. Review safety advice on page 5. You are on your own in the parks, so travel safely!

### GRANT GROVE

#### GENERAL GRANT TREE:

One of the world's largest living trees. President Coolidge proclaimed it the Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926. It is also a National Shrine, the only living memorial to those who died in war. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this ½-mile (.5 km) paved trail. A trail guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

**NORTH GROVE LOOP:** This lightly traveled, 1½-mile (2.4 km) trail offers a close look at Big Trees and a quiet walk in a conifer forest. Start at Grant Tree overflow-parking area.

#### DEAD GIANT LOOP:

Speculate on what killed this sequoia, and enjoy a picturesque view of an historic mill pond. Follow the old road from the Grant Tree overflow-parking area for about a mile. The trail branches off, creating a 1½ mile (2.4 km) round trip.

### NEARBY TRAILS & POINTS OF INTEREST

#### PANORAMIC POINT ROAD:

Open to cars by 5/20, weather permitting. Until then, hike this steep, narrow road to a High-Sierra vista. Go east through visitor-center parking, left around the meadow, right at the sign "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles (3.7km)." From the parking lot, walk ¼ mile (.4km) up to viewpoint. Trailers/RVs not recommended. The 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

**BUENA VISTA PEAK:** South of Kings Canyon Overlook on west side of Generals Highway, 7 miles south of Grant Grove. Trail to 360° vista of Redwood Canyon, Buck Rock Lookout, and High Sierra. 2 miles (3.2 km) round trip.

**REDWOOD CANYON:** Rough dirt road, not plowed, to the world's largest sequoia grove. A renewed forest from 30 years of prescribed fires shows the positive relationship between fire and sequoias. Across Generals Highway from Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction (7 miles south of Grant Grove), to Redwood Saddle. Turn right (west) and go 2 miles (3.2km) to parking lot.

**BIG BALDY RIDGE:** Great views out and down into Redwood Canyon. 2 ¼-mile trail (3.2km) to the summit at 8209 feet (2502m). From Grant Grove, go 8 miles (13km) south on Generals Highway to trailhead. Elevation gain 600 feet (183m); round trip 4.5 miles (6.4km).

**KINGS CANYON OVERLOOK:** View of the High Sierra wilderness, about 6 miles (9.5km) south of Grant Grove.

**REDWOOD MOUNTAIN OVERLOOK:** Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from Quail Flat junction, it looks west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves. Studies here proved the positive relationship between fire and sequoia reproduction.

### THE KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE

The Kings River Bridge to Cedar Grove is being replaced this summer. Detours will be available. Be very careful near the water!

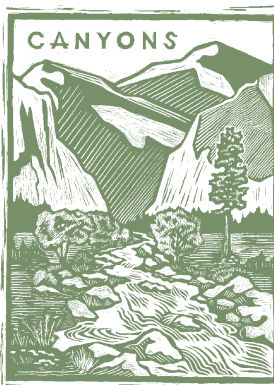
**CANYON VIEW:** The "U" shape of this canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

**KNAPP'S CABIN:** During the Roaring '20s, a Santa Barbara businessman commissioned lavish fishing expeditions here, storing gear in this small cabin. A short walk from a turnout 2 miles (3.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

**ROARING RIVER FALLS:** A very short, shady walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a granite chute. 3 miles (4.8 km) east of the Village road. Paved, accessible with assistance.

#### ZUMWALT MEADOW:

This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) trail passes granite walls, lush meadows, and the Kings River. First ½ mile offers universal access. Trailhead parking is 4 ½ miles (7.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road. Purchase a trail guide at visitor center or at trailhead. Allow 1 hour.



**ROAD'S END:** High granite walls and trails to the river, Muir Rock, and the High Sierra. East of the Village turnoff 5-1/2 miles.

### TAKE A HIKE!

**MIST FALLS:** One of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip. Fairly flat at first; 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles (3.2 km). Park at Road's End.

**DON CECIL TRAIL:** The main route into the canyon prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180. It starts .2 miles (.3 km) east of the village, climbs a north-facing slope past Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up) to good views. Lookout Peak (13-mile/21-km round trip, 4000 foot/ 1220 m elevation gain) has a great panorama. Strenuous; allow all day.

**HOTEL CREEK TRAIL:** Starts .2 mile (.3 km) north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Climbs through chaparral to forest and views from Cedar Grove Overlook. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Strenuous; allow 3 -4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

### USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest (see page 2 for *Park or Forest*).

**CONVERSE BASIN:** Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop to see a monarch they spared (6 miles north of Grant Grove), or the ½-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, a tree cut for exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair (2 miles north of Grant Grove).

**INDIAN BASIN:** A one-mile accessible trail and one-mile unpaved trail. Take Highway 180 7 miles north of Grant Grove; turn into Princess Campground. Trail begins by the host's site.

**HUME LAKE,** formed by a rare, historic, multiple-arch dam, supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108km) to Sanger. An easy 2 ½-mile (4 km) trail circles it. Page 9 lists facilities. Eight miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

**BUCK ROCK LOOKOUT:** A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road 14S11, then take Forest Road 13S04.